

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original): A coated pellet comprising

- a) a pellet core which comprises venlafaxine hydrochloride;
- b) a first coating which comprises a lipophilic layer or a sparingly water-soluble layer, and
- c) a second coating which comprises a water-insoluble polymer or polymer mixture.

Claim 2. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1 wherein the core additionally comprises ~~a carrier, e.g.~~ microcrystalline cellulose.

Claim 3. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the core further comprises a binder.

Claim 4. (Original): A pellet as claimed in claim 3 wherein the binder comprises a cellulose derivative.

Claim 5. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 3 ~~or claim 4~~ wherein the binder comprises hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (~~HPMC~~).

Claim 6. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the lipophilic layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a fat, fatty alcohol ~~or~~ and a wax.

Claim 7. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the lipophilic layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of cetostearyl alcohol, castor oil ~~or~~ and dibutyl phthalate.

Claim 8. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the sparingly water-soluble layer comprises a sugar, ~~e.g. lactose~~, in the form of an aqueous suspension wherein the concentration of the sugar is at least 0.3 g/ml.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A pellet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polymethacrylate dispersions, ethylcellulose dispersions and polyvinyl acetate dispersions.

Claim 10. (Currently amended): A composition comprising pellets as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~.

Claim 11. (Currently amended): A composition as claimed in claim 10 in a form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, hard gelatine capsule or sachet form.

Claim 12. (Currently amended): A process for preparing coated pellet cores which process comprises the steps of

- i) forming a pellet core mixture comprising venlafaxine hydrochloride with water or an aqueous solution of a binder,
- ii) extruding and spheronising the mixture, drying and sieving,
- iii) applying a first coating, and
- iv) applying a second coating,

wherein the process is carried out in the ~~absence of~~ substantial absence of any organic solvent medium ~~at least~~ in the second coating.

Claim 13. (Original): A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the pellet core mixture further comprises microcrystalline cellulose and HPMC.

Claim 14. (Currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~ wherein the process is carried out in the ~~absence of~~ substantial absence of any organic solvent medium in both the first and second coatings.

Claim 15. (Currently amended): A coated pellet produced by the process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~.

Claim 16. (Currently amended): A coated pellet comprising ~~consisting of or consisting essentially of~~

- a) a core containing venlafaxine hydrochloride in an amount of between 30 and 60 % by weight, microcrystalline cellulose in an amount of between 40 and 65 % by weight, and HPMC K 4 M in an amount of between 0.3 and 0.8 % by weight, wherein the respective weights are in relation to the double-coated core;
- b) a first coating containing cetostearyl alcohol in an amount of between 1.7 and 3.5 % by weight of the first-coated pellet core; and
- c) a second coating containing an acrylate-based polymer in an amount of between 9 and 13 % by weight based on the total weight of the double-coated core, and talc in an amount of between 3 and 8 % by weight based on the total weight of the double-coated pellet core.

Claim 17. (Original): A composition comprising pellets as claimed in claim 16.